

REMARKS

Claims 6-24 and 30-49 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 17, 30, 35, 41 and 49 are independent. In the Amendment filed October 10, 2006, Claims 1-5 and 25-29 were cancelled. No claim has been allowed. Claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 23 and 30-49 are amended herein. Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and the objections to the drawings. The claims have been amended to address the numerous objections and rejections raised by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggested revisions.

Claim Objections

All claims have been examined for lack of antecedent basis and other errors and have been accordingly amended.

Claim 6 was objected as being unclear for reciting the limitation “as-of a determined time,” specifically what is meant by “as-of.” The term “as-of,” when used in the phrase “as-of time,” is a term of art and would be well-known to one skilled in the art. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Claim 6 has been amended to include the further limitation “wherein the specified ‘as-of’ time is a time in the past that, when used as a argument in an ‘as-of’ query, produces the same results as would have been produced if a query occurred in the past at the specified ‘as-of’ time.” This definitional language from the specification clarifies what is meant by “as-of.” Claims 30 and 49 have been similarly amended.

Claim 6 was further objected to as being unclear for reciting the limitation “a transaction identifier equal to the transaction identifier for the earliest transaction, less one.” A transaction identifier is a numeric value. Claim 6 has been amended to recite “a transaction identifier equal to the transaction identifier for the earliest transaction minus one.” It is now clear that the numeric transaction identifier value is one less than the numeric transaction identifier value of the earliest transaction. Claims 30 and 49 have been similarly amended.

Claim 9 was objected to as being unclear for reciting the limitation “the transaction,” generally. Claim 9 has been amended to recite “transaction deleting the record” and is thus clear. Claim 33 has been similarly amended.

Claim 11 was objected to as being unclear for reciting the limitation “could have been.” This language has been removed, thus rendering the claim clear. Claim 35 has been similarly amended.

Claim 15 was objected to as being unclear for reciting the limitation “adding a deletion descriptor to a list of deleted records, if the deleter transaction identifier field is not present, the deletion descriptor identifying the transaction and the existing record.” Claim 15 has been amended to remove the first comma, thus rendering the claim clear. Claim 39 has been similarly amended.

Claim 19 was objected to as being unclear for reciting the limitation “which may be the requesting transaction or some other transaction.” This language has been removed, thus rendering the claim clear. Claim 43 has been similarly amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 30-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, specifically a multi-version database management system which, according to the Examiner, can comprise entirely of software per se. However, Claims 30, 35, 41 and 49 have been amended to recite a computer readable storage medium containing instructions readable by a computer to configure the computer to perform a method for controlling visibility of data during transaction processing in a multi-version database management system. These amendments provide the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Further, Claims 31-34, 39, 40 and 43-48 are dependent on Claim 30; Claims 36-38 are dependent on Claim 35; and Claim 42 is dependent on Claim 41 and therefore contain all the limitations of their respective base claim. For these reasons, the Examiner’s rejection of Claims 30-49 is overcome and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

David J. Thibodeau, Jr.
Registration No. 31,671
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Date: 4/24/07